SCRIPT

The Ethiopic syllabary of 26 characters (*see* **Ethiopic**), written from left to right, has been extended by seven letters denoting specifically Amharic sounds. Phonological reduction from Ethiopic to Amharic has resulted in some redundancy; thus, there are, for example, four graphs for /h/. A major omission in the script is the absence of a sign denoting gemination, which is very important, usually phonemic, in Amharic. Signs for the numerals up to 20 are derived from Greek. Words are sometimes separated from each other by the marker ':'.

Numerals

1–10: *and*, *hulätt*, *sost*, *aratt*, *amməst*, *səddəst*, *säbatt*, *səmmənt*, *zäṭäññ*, *assər*; 11 *asra and*; 12 *asra hulätt*; 20 *haya*; 30 *sälasa*; 40 *arba*; 100 *mäto*.

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